



CONTACT:
Leah Gross
Story Dept.
818-330-9839
leah@storydept.net

Flooring Industry Loses One of Its Leaders

World Floor Covering Association Remembers a Passionate Business Man With Tremendous Talent Who Always Had a Smile to Share - Joseph E. "Red" Marron

January 14, 2016 - Dalton, GA - Joseph E. Marron, or "Red" as many called him passed away on January 6, 2016. He was 82 years old. Red was a dedicated floor covering retailer since 1963. As his daughter, Amy Marron-Rakoczy, stated, "there was no one more dedicated to the flooring industry than my father. Everyday that he was in it, he gave it his best and it brought him tremendous joy." Red's retail business, Red Marron Floors, was located in the Richardson, Plano and North Dallas areas.

Red was born in Chicago, Illinois on January 9, 1933. He graduated high school in 1951 in Paxton, Illinois. At the age of 45 Red became President of the Western Floor Covering Association. The following year, 1980, he became Chairman of the Board. Red was nominated and elected "Outstanding Retailer of the Year" by the floor covering industry press in 1979 and was honored at the Merchandise Mart in Chicago, Illinois later that year.

When he was not working, Red was an avid flying enthusiast. His hobby began in 1957 and he bought his first airplane in 1958. From then on he was involved in aviation and hot air ballooning for the rest of his life. He was a member of the Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association (AOPA) as well as the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA). In 1995 he co-organized an RV Fly-In bringing it to Las Cruces, New Mexico and then to Santa Teresa, New Mexico. This Fly-In has grown to be the largest in the country.

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In addition to his dedicated years in the flooring business, Red served with distinction in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. He was stationed on two destroyers: The USS O'Hare and the USS Black. Red was a lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW).

Following his career in flooring, Red retired in Mimbres, New Mexico. He built his home there, and with fellow airplane enthusiasts he also built a hangar and private landing strip nearby. Red enjoyed the wonderful Southwest New Mexico lifestyle and the mountains.

"Red's professional dedication, leadership and positive attitude are the things that we will miss the most about him," said Tom Jennings, Vice President, Professional Development, WFCA. "Red serves as an amazing example of a professional who truly had it all - the balance of a highly successful professional life and the 'sun, moon and the stars' when he partook in his favorite past time. We will miss you Red."

Red is survived by his daughter, Amy Marron Rakoczy and her husband, Joe, of Colleyville, Texas. He is also survived by his brother, Mike Marron and his wife, Bonnie.

Red was buried on January 11, 2016 at the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery in Dallas, Texas.

A tribute wall for Red can be found at: <http://www.lucasfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/Joseph-E-Red-Marron/#!/TributeWall>.

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